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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named

Inventor : Zine-Eddine Boutaghou

Appln. No. : 09/884,796

Filed : June 19, 2001

Title : EXTENDED ALUMINA BASECOAT
ADVANCED AIR BEARING SLIDER

Docket No. : 169.12-0496

Group Art Unit: 2652

Examiner: Le, Minh

AMENDMENTBox Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**SENT VIA FACSIMILE**
Facsimile No.: (703) 872-9314

Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated January 2, 2003. Please amend the pending application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 1-8 with the following paragraph (marked-up version attached in Appendix).

Pole tip recession 56 and alumina recession 58 are illustrated in FIG. 3. Because of the pitch at which slider 20 flies, these recessions result in a mechanical close point 60 of slider 20 at interface 50. This pitch is exaggerated in FIG. 3 for purposes of description. Mechanical close point 60 is the point on slider 20 which is the shortest distance from the surface of magnetic disc 24. This distance is the mechanical close point height 62. As can be seen, pole tip fly height 64 is greater than mechanical close point height 62. In most cases, pole tip fly height 64 is up to about eight percent greater than mechanical close point height 62.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 2, 3 and 5 (marked up version attached in Appendix) and add new claims 15 and 16, such that pending claims 1-16 are as follows: